

against those who seek the freedom to emigrate or to practice their religious or cultural traditions, drawing special attention to the hardships and discrimination imposed upon the Jewish community in the Soviet Union;

Whereas, in 1983, the bipartisan Congressional Human Rights Caucus was founded to advance the cause of human rights;

Whereas, in 1984, the Congressional Coalition for Soviet Jews was founded;

Whereas, on December 6, 1987, an estimated 250,000 people demonstrated on the National Mall in Washington, DC, in support of freedom for Soviet Jews, in advance of a summit between Mikhail Gorbachev and President Reagan;

Whereas, in 1989, the former Soviet Union opened its doors to allow the millions of Soviet Jews who had been held as virtual prisoners within their own country to leave the country;

Whereas, in 1991, the Supreme Soviet passed a law that codified the right of every citizen of the Soviet Union to emigrate, precipitating massive emigration by Jews, primarily to Israel and the United States;

Whereas, since 1975, more than 500,000 refugees from areas of the former Soviet Union—many of them Jews, evangelical Christians, and Catholics—have resettled in the United States;

Whereas the Soviet Jewish community in the United States today numbers between 750,000 and 1,000,000, though some estimates are twice as high;

Whereas Jewish immigrants from the former Soviet Union have greatly enriched the United States in areas as diverse as business, professional sports, the arts, politics, and philanthropy;

Whereas, in 1992, Congress passed the Freedom Support Act, making aid for the 15 independent states of the former Soviet Union contingent on progress toward democratic self-government and respect for human rights;

Whereas, since 2000, more than 400 independent Jewish cultural organizations and 30 Jewish day schools have been established in the independent states of the former Soviet Union; and

Whereas the National Conference on Soviet Jewry and its partner organizations continue to work to promote the safety and human rights of Jews in the independent states of the former Soviet Union: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions of American citizens of Jewish descent who emigrated from the Soviet Union;

(2) commemorates the 40th anniversary of the mass movement for freedom by and on behalf of Soviet Jewry;

(3) commemorates the 20th anniversary of the December 6, 1987, Freedom Sunday rally, a major landmark of Jewish activism in the United States; and

(4) condemns incidents of anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and religious persecution wherever they may occur in the independent states of the former Soviet Union and encourages the development and deepening of democracy, religious freedom, rule of law, and human rights in those states.

HONORING SAN FRANCISCO OIL SPILL VOLUNTEERS

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 385, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 385) honoring those who have volunteered to assist in the clean-up of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in San Francisco Bay.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 385) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 385

Whereas the oil spill that occurred on November 7, 2007, in the San Francisco Bay resulted in the discharge of between 53,570 and 58,000 gallons of toxic bunker fuel, causing one of the Bay Area's worse environmental disasters;

Whereas 28 beaches were closed and over 1,300 birds so far have been severely impacted by the spill;

Whereas thousands of individuals throughout the San Francisco Bay Area immediately volunteered to assist with the cleanup;

Whereas Bay Area community non-profit organizations, such as San Francisco Connect, have also rallied to support the response and recovery work by supporting these volunteer efforts;

Whereas Bay Area environmental organizations, such as Baykeeper, Save the Bay, and Bay Institute, have provided invaluable leadership in reporting, assessing, and helping to remediate the damage to the Bay's ecosystem;

Whereas the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, members of the San Francisco Crab Boat Owners Association, commercial crabbers, and other Bay Area fishermen have all joined the cleanup efforts as well; and

Whereas the city of San Francisco, particularly through its Department of Emergency Management, has significantly contributed to the overall response, bringing considerable resources to bear: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate honors those individuals and organizations who have volunteered to assist in the cleanup of the November 7, 2007, oil spill in one of our Nation's most beloved national treasures, the San Francisco Bay.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND LEGAL REPRESENTATION

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 386, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 386) to authorize testimony and legal representation in State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, this resolution concerns a request for testimony in a criminal action in Nebraska District Court for Lancaster County in Lincoln, in which the victim was, at the time of the alleged crime, an intern in Senator HAGEL's office. Two other former staff members from Senator HAGEL's office are being subpoenaed to provide testimony in depositions regarding their knowledge of the events at issue and their interactions with the victim. Senator HAGEL wishes to cooperate with this judicial process by providing the requested testimony from these two former members of his staff. This resolution would authorize those staff members to testify in this action, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; that the preamble be agreed to; that the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, en bloc; and that any statements relating to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 386) as agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 386

Whereas, in the case of State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi, No. CR05-87, pending in Nebraska District Court for Lancaster County in Lincoln, Nebraska, testimony has been requested from Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr., former employees in the office of Senator Chuck Hagel;

Whereas, pursuant to sections 703(a) and 704(a)(2) of the Ethics in Government Act of 1978, 2 U.S.C. §288b(a) and §288c(a)(2), the Senate may direct its counsel to represent employees of the Senate with respect to any subpoena, order, or request for testimony relating to their official responsibilities;

Whereas, by the privileges of the Senate of the United States and Rule XI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, no evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may, by the judicial or administrative process, be taken from such control or possession but by permission of the Senate;

Whereas, when it appears that evidence under the control or in the possession of the Senate may promote the administration of justice, the Senate will take such action as will promote the ends of justice consistent with the privileges of the Senate: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved That Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr. are authorized to testify in the case of State of Nebraska v. Pamir J. Safi, except concerning matters for which a privilege should be asserted.

Sec. 2. The Senate Legal Counsel is authorized to represent Dorothy Anderson and Blayne Garth Glissman, Jr. in connection with the testimony authorized in section one of this resolution.

REGARDING DEGRADATION OF THE JORDAN RIVER AND THE DEAD SEA

Mr. WEBB. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate